REPORT

OF

THE DUNDEE CONFERENCE

OF THE

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS,

HELD IN

THE ROYAL ARMS LECTURE-ROOM,

LINDSAY STREET,

ON SABBATH, 18th DECEMBER, 1853.

ANDREW FERGUSON, President.
JAMES HAIR, Clerk.

DUNDEE:
PRINTED BY J. PELLOW, NEW INN ENTRY

1854.

REPORT.

SATURDAY, December 17th, 1853, 8 P.M.

The Delegates of the Dundee Conference met pursuant to notice in the Royal Arms Lecture Room, Lindsay Street, and reported the state of their branches and districts. The Saints were represented generally in very good standing. Elder Ferguson then expressed his satisfaction with the Reports of the Delegates, and exhorted them to continue in diligence. The Meeting was then addressed at some length by Elder Carrigan, followed by Elder Campbell.

SABBATH MORNING, 18th.

Conference assembled and was called to order by President Ferguson by singing and prayer. When he arose and said—"My Brethren and Sisters, I am happy to have the honour of meeting with you in the capacity of a Conference. I feel grateful to God that I have health andstrength to appear before you. We are here to transact business for the welfare of the kingdom of God. It is therefore necessary that we have the assistance of the Lord through his spirit, that it may make known unto us those things needful. We all cry for intelligence: here are the men through whom the Lord will speak according to your faith and necessities. I desire to feel free this morning, and to have a free Spirit prevail throughout this day. In looking at our labours during the past quarter, I find the Lord has blessed us in our various duties. Seeing our past labours have been acknowledged of God, we shall then enter with more life and spirit into the duties of the future, sustaining all measures submitted to us by the Priesthood. Brethren and Sisters, are you not glad you are calledto be Latter-Day Saints. You are engaged in the work which is destined to sweep wickedness from off the face of the earth. Our whole soul should be in this work, and while you do this you will have strength from God to surmount all obstacles that may beset your path. I cannot but say that I am glad to be associated with such a people as those over whom I am called to preside. You have desired to do good from the time I first knew you; all you require is to be instructed in your duties, and you are on hand to accomplish them. I cannot see anything that should have been that is not done; true, there may be many things if we had had the knowledge we have now we would have done better, we have this consolation that all has been done according to the wisdom at our command. I desire that you should be blest this day. I will stand aside and let them who are better qualified bless you. I will now submit to this Meeting for their approval, or disapproval, the authorities of the Church in their various callings.

The following motions were then put to the meeting and adopted unanimously:—

That we uphold Brigham Young as President, and Heber C. Kimball,

and Willard Richards, his Counsellers; as the first Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

That we sustain Father John Smith as Presiding Patriarch.

That we sustain the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, with Orson Hyde their President.

That we sustain Samuel W. Richards as the President of the Church in the British Isles, and Daniel Spencer as his Counsellor.

That we sustain Elder Robert Campbell as Pastor of the Church in Scotland; also, that we acknowledge the appointment of Elder James Carrigan, his successor.

That we sustain Elder Andrew Ferguson as President of the Dundee Conference; and acknowledge the appointment of Elder D. D. M'Arthur his successor.

That we sustain James Mair as Secretary, Andrew M'Farlane as Book and Star-Agent, and John Mather as Treasurer for this Conference.

Officers present—3 Seventies, 12 Elders, 3 Priests, 7 Teachers, 3 Deacons.

The Clerk then read the Statistical and Financial matters pertaining to the Conference.

Elder Campbell—"Beloved Brethren and Sisters in the Lord. It is with pleasure I rise to speak to you. In relation to those items of business, they have all necessarily to be submitted to you, and I expect it is satisfactory for you to realize that their varied interests are properly looked after. Suppose the Book Agency leaks, or any of those Funds, who has got to foot the Bill? The whole people in the Conference. I feel a degree of freedom I have not enjoyed before at Conferences. I do not feel that responsibility of directing and counselling pertaining to the next quarter. I realize this morning that this is the work of the Lord, that by his arm we have been sustained, and led through the shifting scenes of life, for which we praise the Lord. We have been here among you, and have sought to minister to you from time to time. We have lived for your interests, and so far as God has given us power to do you good—to him be all the glory. Can we boast who are but as the grass that soon fadeth. I am glad Brother Ferguson is going, and I would have been glad had it been ordered for him to stay. When I had the Presidency of the Glasgow Conference, I sent him out to travel and preach, and since that he has laboured diligently and faithfully. You are now somewhat acquainted with his successor Brother M'Arthur. The spirit has been a preparing the mind of the people for him. In relation to Brother Carrigan, he is to me comparitively a stranger, but he has his recommendations from the authorities of the Church in Zion, which is much better than mine. He has more experience than me, and is no doubt calculated to be a greater blessing. I am now permitted by my Brethren to return home. Saints, are you willing? This is now into my fourth winter here. I rejoice greatly in the privilege of going. My feelings could wish you all to go along, but we must submit and be willing to go as the way opens before us, and always acknowledge the hand of God. I will say no more at this time. God bless you. Amen."

Elder D. D. M'Arthur—"Brethren and Sisters, I am happy in this meeting. I have felt well since last Conference. The Lord has been with me. I have laboured as well as I could, to gather souls into the Church of Christ. I have baptized five. Others feel that this is the work of the Lord, who I believe will shortly be baptised. My prayers are for the people My desire is that I may prove myself to be a servant of God to build up this people, that I might prepare their minds for the second advent of Messiah. The Lord is now choosing the honest, and we are gathering them out. The people in Aberdeen have been kind to me. No people considering their circumstances could have blessed me more. I have left that quarter satisfied with my labours, and as I now come to enter into the duties of President of this conference, I expect your faith and prayers. When I received the letter of appointment from Samuel, I said immediately the Lord could not have chosen a greater fool. Yet my desire is to accomplish my work in these lands. I do not wish to return before; I care not how long it be. You need not be afraid to pray for and assist those over you—they cannot lead you astray. Don't be afraid; God would not allow his servants to lead a good people astray, if they err he will supplant them. We have now got ahead of the world. Let us keep ahead. Editors, ministers, and the people call us fools and fanatics; they try to bring us down—but we are out of their reach. Brethren and Sisters, go-a-head and the Lord will bless you. Amen."

Elder Chalmers—"I rejoice this morning and feel the Spirit of God is in this meeting. I know there is no lasting happiness but in this Church. I desire to continue a Latter-Day Saint, and retain my position in gathering out the honest from among the people. I have not accomplished that which Brother Campbell sent me to do, viz., to baptise two or three, however I felt I have done the best I could; and just before Conference, and as I was settling things to come home, I received a letter from Brother Campbell that the time had come when he contemplated I should return. So I felt we had both the same spirit. The Saints in Thurso are good, considering their position in the world. I have sown the seed in the minds of a number; tracts have been distributed, influential members of Society have received the truth for their consideration. I pray the Lord to bless us all, even so. Amen."

Elder Davis—"My Brethren and Sisters in the Lord, I feel happy this morning. The spirit of the Lord is here. I have done the best I could during the past quarter. I have baptized four, other four or five seem deeply interested in searching into the work of God. I have visited the houses of the people, instructed them in the ways of life and salvation, and left for their perusal during my absence the printed word. I know this is the work of the Lord. I pray that we may all have power to discharge our every duty. Amen."

President Ferguson expressed his satisfaction with the reports of the Brethren.

Voted at our Pastor's request that Elder Chalmers be released from this Conference to go to Edinburgh Conference.

Afternoon Service, 15 Minutes past 2 p.m.—Meeting opened with

singing and prayer, when President Ferguson introduced Elder Carrigan, who said—" I rejoice this afternoon in having the privilege of meeting with the Saints of the Dundee Conference. While I have sat this morning and observed the business transacted, I have come to this conclusion that Brother Campbell and the Presidents here, and the Priesthood engaged with them, have endeavoured with all the wisdom God has given them, to adopt such measures as has been for your benefit I do not expect to speak a great deal, seeing Brother Campbell is about to leave for Zion. I would rather give way for him to speak. It is evident from the situation of the Conferences in Scotland, that he has laboured diligently that you might become intelligent, and fit to associate with intelligent beings, for this is life eternal, to know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent. As Brother Campbell is about to leave, and cross the Prairies, seeing he has blessed you in spiritual things, it is now your duty to bless him in temporal things. When I left the valley I had not a cent of money nor any means to prosecute my journey to Europe. Yet I lacked for nothing that was needful. I know that God the Eternal Father in the order of his providence, has raised up a Prophet, poured out upon him the Holy Spirit, by whose appointment I have been called to go on a mission to Europe, and knowing that God controls the hearts of all men, I knew that I should not lack anything. I also know that the gold and silver and the cattle upon a thousand hills are the Lord's. There are none upon this earth who posess influence, intelligence, or riches, but what has come from God, the Eternal Father. I knew God could carry on his own work. My Brethren and I were sent by the highest authority upon the earth. The Lord has said he will soften the hearts of the people from time to time, to accomplish his eternal purposes. The next thing I would mention is respecting Brother Campbell's removal If you assist him, you shall be richer in twelve months and have more blessings than you have now. I desire he should go home with the blessings of heaven and of earth resting upon him; for inasmuch as you do it to him, you do it to God, for he is worthy." After making a few more observations he closed by praying the Lord to bless the Saints, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

President Ferguson—" Brother Carrigan has spoken at some length upon the emigration of Brother Campbell. It is true, Brethren, he has laboured diligently for the welfare of this people, and there is not a Saint before me but can say amen to that; he has fasted and prayed for you, in his administrations he has dealt out liberally to us of the things of God. He is now privileged to go to Zion, and it is now the least we can do to bless him in return. I will move that the Saints of this Conference subscribe of their means to assist Elder Campbell to return, but, before putting it to the Meeting, I will leave it open for the remarks of any of my brethren.

Elder D. D. M'Arthur—I feel good in relation to the subscription for Brother Campbell. He has done his best for you. I know he has looked over me like a father, and wherever I have been in Scotland, the Saints do all speak well of him; you need not be afraid of blessing him

too much. I would say send him off comfortable, that he may put up a place when he gets home. If the Lord blesses me I will bless him."

Elder Davis—"I have known Brother Campbell these three years, and have laboured with him from that time, and I can testify he is a man of God. I will do what I can both by my means and influence. I know also that the Saints in Scotland love him, and they will donate liberally for him."

Elder Chalmers—"I was not long in this Church when Brother Campbell came to Scotland. I may say, all the knowledge I have in this Church has come through him; if not personally, from those he has taught, there is not a Saint in Scotland but has felt the benefit of Brother Campbell's teachings. He has accomplished a good work since he came to Scotland. My faith and prayers are for him, and my influence among this people shall be used in his behalf."

Elder John Mather—"I have presided over this Branch about three years and a half, and can testify that since Elder Campbell entered into the duties of Pastor over the Scottish Conferences, this Conference has made considerable progress in knowledge. I promise before this Meeting to use every lawful means for Brother Campbell's blessing, and I believe he will go home to Zion with the blessings of heaven, and also of th earth upon him."

Elder David Mathewson spoke to the same effect, whereupon it was voted unanimously that, a subscription be taken up throughout the Conference to assist in the emigration of Elder Campbell.

Voted unanimously that the Saints scattered in Montrose, Forfar, and Craigo, be organized and called the Montrose Branch.

Voted that Joseph Routledge receive the office of Elder and President over the Montrose Branch.

Brother Campbell gave some direction in relation to the statistical reports, and said—The Brethren who were coming into office would have to make themselves acquainted with all those matters referred to in Star, vol. 14, page 474, and wished the Presidents to assist the Clerk to have a correct Half-Yearly Report for Dundee this time.

Meeting adjourned till quarter past Six P.M.

Evening Service.—Meeting opened as usual, when Elder Carrigan made some good remarks pertaining to the valley and the Saints there. The intelligence possessed by the Saints, how they appreciated the words of life and salvation which came through the Apostles and Prophets; what the intelligence of this people would do for them in the midst of the nations of the earth.

Elder Campbell followed—Said he had no desire to speak of himself. As a man he had nothing to say this evening to the people, but felt, inasmuch as the Lord would speak through him, willingly to minister to the Saints, but if not, just as willing to sit down. It mattered to him but little either way. He spoke forcibly on the duties of the Saints acting in unison with their high calling, that the spirit might be always upon them to lead them in the light. Bade the Saints continually to remember that they were the children of the most high God. Prophets

and Apostles and all holy men were our Brothers. Eternal existence and eternal things were what we were living for; these alone can satisfy the Saints. This world with its allurements, fascinations, and follies, were as vanity. All holy men who lived under the inspiration of the Almighty saw it too, and could not be satisfied with the empty perishing things with which they were surrounded; called upon the Saints to sanctify themselves before the Lord, to make hallow and sacred their ways, cease evil speaking, and trifling with the things of God. Let tea and tobacco and strong drinks alone, that as pestilence is at haud, the ordinances and institutions of God's house might prove effectual among the Saints. He warned them against sending for doctors before the Elders of Israel, and concluded with earnest exhortation to his Brethren and Sisters, to maintain their standing in this work, and not to trifle with the world, nor be found submitting to their influences, and warned the young Sisters, especially against those not in the Church, after which

President Ferguson said—As it was now late, he would express briefly his satisfaction with the proceedings of this day, and say they had indeed had a heavenly treat. What is on my mind to lay before you is in relation to Elder Campbell. In the afternoon a few of the Brethren expressed in words their entire satisfaction with the past labours of Elder Campbell. I think it proper to take an expression of all the Saints present, and if you feel satisfied with Brother Campbell's labours, signify it by uplifted hands [all hands up]

Elder Campbell—I presume it would be proper also for this people to signify by the same sign their acceptance and approval of the labours of Elder Ferguson, which was unanimously voted.

Meeting closed by benediction from Elder Chalmers.

Statistical Report of the Dundee Conference for one year ending 18th December, 1853.

Branches.	Presidents.	Seventies.	Elders.	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Members.	Total.	Baptised	Received from other conferences	Remov'd to other Conferences.	Excommunicated.	Dead.	Emigrated.	Scattered.
Dundee.,...	Jn. Mather....		7	5	5	3	103	123	6	2	5	10	1	6	6
Arbroath...	H. Gowans....		7	4	5	3	71	90	21	1	4	15	1	3	6
Perth.....	D. Mathewson		1	2			22	25	5		5	1	1		3
Blairgowrie	Thos. Fraser..		1	1	1		14	17			1	5		1	
Aberdeen...	D D M'Arthur	1		1			20	22	8	1		6		1	
Portsoy	A M'Lennan		1	1	1		15	18	8		3	1			
Thurso.....	W. M'Kay jnr		2				8	10	6						
		1	19	14	12	6	253	305	54	4	18	38	3	11	15

Financial Report of the Dundee Conference for one year ending 18th December, 1853.

	Conference fund.	Emigration fund.	Temple fund.	Given to various Elders.	Elders.	Pastor Campbell.	James M'Naughtan.	Conference debt.	Sister Ferguson.	Levi Richards.	Book & Star Debt.	Foreign Missions.	Total Donated.
Dundee	12 10 5½	2 13 2	14	8 11 16	18 6 2	8 10	14 11	5 19 11	2 7	10 6	3 3	15 2 6	77 13 11
Arbroath	8 19 6½	12 6 9	8	7½ 18 19	5 3		10 17 2½	7 17 9	1	9	4	10	65 11 1½
Perth	1 0 3		1	8	1 8 1½	9	1 16	9 8	3	2	1	1 5	8 14 2½
Blairgowrie	1 16 1½	18 6	1 11	6 3 3	6	10	2 12	8	8	6	1 5	1	13 15 9½
Aberdeen		5	6	6 3 8		1 6	6 5 6	8	2	3	9		10 18 6
Portsoy		14	7	10				3		3			1 11
Thurso	15	15	16 6	3 11					6				6 6
	25 1 4½	7 12 5	26 11 8½	47 18 6½	6 9	9 4 36	1 8 18	14 18 4	4 4 2½	1 8	9 17 11	7 6 3	184 11 0½

BOOK AGENT'S ACCOUNT,

As audited Dec. 17, by elders Mair & Murdoch.

BRANCH DEBTS.

Dundee	£3	3	4
Arbroath	0	18	6½
Aberdeen	1	19	5
Perth	2	0	4
Blairgowrie	0	1	0½
Inverness	2	16	2
Thurso	0	5	5
Portsoy	1	8	4½
Montrese	0	16	11
North Mission	1	4	1
	£14	13	7½
Ch. publications in agent's hands	12	11	4
Cash remitted up to 17th Dec.	22	13	4
Money in agent's hands	1	7	2½
	£51	5	6

Agent due office in Liverpool, 30th June, 1853 . . £36 4 5½

Books received during present quarter up to 17th Dec. 1853 15 1 0½ £51 5 6

CONFERENCE FUND.

Treasurer Dr.

Received for one year ending 18th Dec. 1853	£25	1	4½
Collections at conference meetings	3	6	9½
Proceeds of Soirees	5	14	6
	£34	2	8

CREDITOR.

To Elder Js. M'Naughtan	£1	18	5½			
Board and lodging for Aw. Ferguson and others	7	9	3			
Clothing for Elder Ferguson and family	2	4	6½			
Given to various Elders	10	18	5½			
Statnry. & Clks. expenses	2	8	3			
Given to Elder Ferguson's family	11	19	9			
Ditto to travelling Elder's families	6	6.		37	5	2½
Balance due Treasurer				£3	2	6½